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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
KRIS et al. : Group Art Unit: NOT YET ASSIGNED
Serial No. of Parent : Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED
Application No. 09/218,166
Filed: September 15, 2000

For: HIGH THROUGHPUT ASSAY SYSTEM USING MASS SPECTROMETRY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the accompanying application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11-14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 15 and 18 as follows:

15. (Amended) A method of detecting at least one nucleic acid target, comprising

[a] contacting a sample which may comprise said target(s) with a nuclease protection fragment(s) specific for and which binds to said target(s), exposing the sample to a nuclease effective to digest remaining single strand nucleic acid, and then contacting the resultant sample with a combination which comprises, before the addition of said sample,

i) a surface comprising multiple spatially discrete regions, at least two of which are substantially identical, each region comprising

ii) at least two different anchors, each in association with

iii) a bifunctional linker which has a first portion that is specific for the anchor, and a second portion that comprises a probe which is specific for said nuclease protection fragment(s) [the combination of claim 11],

under conditions effective for said [target] nuclease protection fragment(s) to bind to said combination[.]

[b] contacting said combination and any bound [targets] nuclease protection fragment(s) with a labeled detection probe, and